

TO SAY THANK YOU TO OFFICER CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT GIBSON

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thanks to Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson for being there when we needed them the most.

I really shudder to think of how much worse this tragedy could have been if these two men had not been there to make the ultimate sacrifice at their posts.

Today, as we honor them, I want to take a moment to recognize the reassuring presence of the Capitol Police who guard their institution with their lives every day. Thank you.

As Friday's events so vividly demonstrated, without you, the exercise of democracy in this House, the People's House, would not be possible. You do a great service to your country. I ask for God's blessing to the family, to friends, to the other officers in this time of tragic loss.

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BURR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Special Agent John Gibson, Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, duty, honor, country.

Many Members of Congress have expressed our collective grief over the loss of Special Agent Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut, but it is worth repeating over and over again. Officers, law enforcement, fire personnel over the country every year lose their lives helping all of us, American citizens. We should express our grief today and remember them as they remembered us, helping us through difficult situations. Condolences to the family. God bless you all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY).

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I also add my voice to the chorus of sympathy being sung on this day of mourning here at the Capitol for the Chestnut and Gibson families. To them we give thanks in the memory of their fallen heroes. We pray that their grief will be comforted.

They died protecting freedom and protecting the lives of all of us here in the Capitol. They died as any U.S. soldier would have in any war. It is now just to remember how much we appreciate and admire their leadership and their service, and we send our deepest sympathies to the family as we proceed to the memorial service in the Rotunda.

I thank the gentleman from California for yielding to me.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

IN TRIBUTE TO JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT AND JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I join a mournful Nation to express my deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson. These two brave and courageous officers gave their lives to the protection of Members of Congress, our staff and visitors who come to see the Capitol from all over the country.

On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of the State of Hawaii, I stand to pay tribute to the gallantry and bravery of these two men who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Many people from Hawaii visit the Capitol each year and have felt the assurance of safety provided by the dignified and diligent service of our Capitol Police. To learn that two of them died in the line of fire is shocking news everywhere in America.

I returned home to Hawaii the next day after the event to find that all of the people I saw received word of this terrible loss with a sense of personal loss. Everyone felt that their safety had been compromised with such an assault upon our House. The feeling of warmth and compassion for the families of the slain officers was deep and very moving.

As we reflect on these events, I realize how guilty we all are in taking for granted officers like Chestnut and Gibson who stand in the line of fire every day that they serve us here and in our home communities. I pray for their eternal peace and for the life and safety of every one of their colleagues who serve us here in the Nation's Capitol.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT

(Mr. MINGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, this last week of July, 1998, we honor Officers Gibson and Chestnut. We honor them for the ultimate sacrifice that they have made on behalf of this country and on behalf of this institution.

I join my many colleagues in all of their eloquent remarks. We certainly cannot be too eloquent to thank, compliment those officers and share with their families the bereavement of their loss.

On behalf of the people of the State of Minnesota, I wish to extend our condolences.

Finally, on behalf of the Members of this institution, I think it is fair to say

that we recognize a renewed obligation to meet the challenges that we face with the same dedication that the officers who have given their lives met their obligation.

I share in the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) in the desire to see this institution work on a collegial basis in the months and years to come.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the attached transcript is of my radio address to the nation on Saturday, July 25, 1998. During this address, I discussed the tragic attack at the Capitol and the courage of those officers who responded to this tragedy. The officers who were killed—and all those who helped apprehend the gunman, assist the injured and evacuate the building—are true heroes of democracy, and every American owes them a deep debt of gratitude. They gave their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress. If not for their quick and courageous action, many innocent people would likely have been injured or killed. I submit the transcript to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[Republican response to the President's Weekly Radio Address, July 25, 1998]

GINGRICH: Good morning. I'm Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

And I want to report to you on the tragic attack on the United States Capitol, your Capitol, on the professionalism of the Capitol police, on the heroic actions of two fine policemen who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Capitol, and in their sacrifice, saved many innocent lives.

I also want to talk briefly about their families, the tragic loss they've suffered and the loss that the entire Capitol Hill family has suffered.

And finally I want to emphasize that this building is the keystone of freedom, that it is open to the people because it is the people's building. And that no terrorist, no deranged person, no act of violence will block us from preserving our freedom and from keeping this building open to people from all over the world, and to every American who wants to come and visit the center of their self government.

This is the people's building. Up to 23,000 people a day visit this Capitol, their Capitol, to see their government at work, to stand in the shrine of freedom and teach their children—and we have many, many school children who visit on a regular basis.

But those who hate or fear freedom, sometimes seek to attack this Capitol and those in it precisely because they symbolize America, self government, authority and the process of freedom.

The Capitol police protect the Capitol as the Secret Service protects the White House. Each day thousands of people enter the Capitol and are greeted by our protectors and our ambassadors to the world. The thin blue line of the Capitol police, both provide safety and provides information.

Yesterday, as officer J.J. Chestnut was advising a visitor how to get to the subway, a deranged man tried to force his way into the Capitol. He killed Officer Chestnut and wounded Angela Dickerson, a visitor to the Capitol.

J.J. Chestnut's partner, who was getting a wheelchair to help a visitor, returned the gunman's fire. As the gunman fled, he ran into Whip Tom Delay's office and there exchanged fire with Officer John Gibson.

Officer Gibson, at the sacrifice of his own life, saved the lives of dozens of innocent